

9 JUL 1971

Approved For Release 2001/03/04 : CIA-RDP80-01601R

# C.I.A. Says Plan Seeks to Embarrass U.S.

By TAD SZULC

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 8—The Central Intelligence Agency has told President Nixon that the new Vietcong peace proposal is aimed at embarrassing the United States "both at home and overseas" and encouraging the opponents of President Nguyen Van Thieu in South Vietnam.

Other negative comments on the plan were contained in a detailed analysis submitted to Mr. Nixon and other top Administration officials last Friday a day after Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the chief Vietcong delegate, offered her proposals at the Paris talks.

The agency's evaluation, according to senior Administration officials, was one of several top-level studies of the Communist plan on which President Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers based their decision to instruct the United States delegation in Paris to seek further clarifications today from the Communist side in "restricted sessions," or private talks.

## Reservations Expressed

The evaluation as well as the parallel studies prepared in recent days by the State and Defense Departments and the National Security Council staff have expressed numerous serious reservations about the Vietcong plan.

But all the studies also found new elements in the plan. The C.I.A. paper, for example, noted that "it softens" the Communist position on the American prisoners of war and presents "two new nuances" on the South Vietnamese political settlement. For this reason, senior officials said, the Administration chose to seek to engage in what officials here termed "meaningful negotiations."

Senior officials emphasized that they did not consider the fact that the Communists had not responded immediately to the proposal for "restricted" sessions, made today in Paris by David K. E. Bruce, the chief United States negotiator, as an outright rejection.

They said that "something resembling a negotiating process may be in the making."

At San Clemente, Calif., where President Nixon and Mr. Rogers conferred for the third time this week on strategy in the Paris talks, a White House spokesman, Gerald L. Warren, said that Mr. Bruce was attempting to start "meaningful negotiations."

The State Department press officer, Charles W. Bray 3d, said here about the Bruce proposal that "we regret that the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong did not respond affirmatively to this suggestion but continue to hope that they will do so."

## Nixon Expected to Wait

Highly-placed officials indicated their belief that President Nixon would refrain from publicly expressing his views on the developments in the talks until the situation became "much clearer" through public or private exchanges in Paris.

They said that only after such clarifications would Mr. Nixon address the nation on the state of the negotiations. They recalled that last year he had waited nearly three weeks after the Communists presented their peace plan on Sept. 17 before making his counterproposal on Oct. 7.

"At this stage, we are not prepared to reject or to accept anything as a package," a senior official said. "We are looking and we are probing because this is the business of diplomacy."

Other officials said that the negotiating situation would be reviewed again when Henry A.

Kissinger joins Mr. Nixon and Mr. Rogers in San Clemente on Sunday. The next scheduled session of the Paris talks is next Thursday.

Mr. Kissinger, the President's special assistant for national security affairs, visited Saigon last weekend and is to confer with Mr. Bruce in Paris on Saturday.

Richard Helms, the Director of Central Intelligence, whose agency was reported to have drafted the first analysis of the Vietcong plan, participated in the discussions on the United States response to the Communist proposals after he flew to San Clemente with President Nixon and Mr. Rogers last Tuesday.

Officials familiar with various Administration evaluations of the Vietcong plan said that the C. I. A. analysis was "perhaps the most pessimistic—but also the most realistic—of the lot."

Its over-all conclusion, contained in the first paragraph of the document, said:

"The Vietcong's new seven-point proposal softens the Communists' position on the prisoner-of-war release but retains and amplifies a very tough line on United States disengagement from the war. In

addition, it repackages Hanoi's demands for a political settlement in South Vietnam in a superficially more attractive form."

## New Nuances Recognized

The analysis recognized, however, that "there are two new nuances in the Communist position on a political settlement in South Vietnam."

The principal features of Mrs. Binh's plan were the Communist readiness to start releasing United States war prisoners as American troops begin withdrawing from Vietnam after a date "in 1971" is set by Washington, and the dropping of the Communists' long-standing insistence on a coalition regime in Saigon as the condition for a political settlement.

But after analyzing the plan, the C. I. A. offered this assessment of the Communist motives in presenting their July 1 proposals:

"The Communists doubtless hope that their initiative on the prisoners—coupled as it is with a restatement of their basic position on United States withdrawals—will make things awkward for the United States Government both at home and overseas."

"They may also believe that their political proposals will appeal to many in the United States who are looking for a face-saving way out of the war. They probably are also hoping that the new proposal will fuel worries in Saigon about Washington's longer-term support."

"The new formula for a political settlement in South Vietnam, by its fuzziness and air of reasonableness, is designed both to encourage individuals in South Vietnam whose support of the war is wavering and to give some ammunition to those who are already working to build an anti-Thieu, anti-war constituency."

## Coincidence of Beliefs

This aspect of the analysis was known to coincide with the belief in other Administration quarters that the Communist peace plan was launched, at least in part, to influence the outcome of the October elections in South Vietnam, where President Nguyen Van Thieu is seeking re-election.

In this context, the analysis noted that "among other things, the Communists seem intent on creating the impression that the election of Big Minh could prove an initial step toward peace."

"Big Minh" is Gen. Duong Van Minh, a potential but undeclared presidential candidate

upon whom Hanoi and the Vietcong had looked with favor in the past.

The analysis said that the Vietcong plan's first "new nuance" was that instead of demanding a coalition regime in Hanoi, it "simply demands that the United States 'cease backing the bellicose group' headed by Thieu."

The other nuance, it said, is that the Communists no longer ask a "three-segment" regime, including Communists, but a broad "government of national concord" to be negotiated by the Vietcong with a "post-Thieu administration."

"The Communists seem to be trying to leave the impression that the form of government is open to negotiation," the document said. "Moreover, the language of this section—and indeed much of the statement—is cast to convey an image of

conciliation and reasonableness without committing Hanoi to anything specific."

The analysts also warned against pitfalls in the Communist proposal for releasing the American prisoners in exchange for the withdrawal of United States troops from Vietnam under a set deadline. This has appeared to be the most attractive aspect of Mrs. Binh's peace package.

But the analysis said that while "the formulation on the prisoner-release question is new," the Communist demand on total United States military disengagement "is as firm as ever."

"Moreover, by including for the first time civilian as well as military prisoners, the Communists are opening the whole thorny problem of the Communist civilian cadre who are now held by Saigon," it said.

STATINTL

ELLSBERG'S VIEW

STATINTL

# Intrigue at Pentagon

By PAUL HOPE  
Star Staff Writer

Daniel Ellsberg, who turned over the secret Pentagon papers to newspapers, painted a picture today of intrigue in the Pentagon that prevented even former Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara from knowing some things that were going on in connection with the war in Vietnam.

He referred to one study on the Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1961 which he said was withheld from McNamara by the Joint Chiefs of Staff until the secretary had been asked about it by Sen. J. William Fulbright during testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"The study was deliberately withheld from the secretary of Defense," he said. "The Joint Chiefs didn't want the secretary to see it. . . . It had tapes of all the secretary's conversations overseas."

He said that all conversations that went through the "war room" were taped and that the Joint Chiefs didn't want to call this to McNamara's attention, nor did they want him to know that "the file on the CIA was as complete as it was."

## "I First Learned . . ."

The specific study to which Ellsberg referred apparently was the Command and Control Study which the Rand Corp. was commissioned to do after the Tonkin Gulf incidents. Its aim was to analyze communications between the destroyers involved and distant command centers, particularly during the second of the incidents in August 1964.

In the Feb. 20, 1963, hearings which Fulbright held on the handling of the incidents, McNamara was pressed by the senator on the contents of the report. McNamara replied that he had not read all of it, and added: "I first learned of it a few days ago when you asked for it."

Ellsberg said he had access to the study when he was working for Rand Corp. as a consultant to the Pentagon, but that he did not have access when he later

worked fulltime for the Pentagon.

He recalled one McNamara conversation with Adm. Ulysses Sharp, then commander in chief of Pacific forces, that was in the study which "showed uncertainty" about whether the second Gulf of Tonkin incident did occur.

He accused McNamara of deliberately misleading Congress in hearings that led to the passage of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, under which President Johnson drew his authority for much of his Vietnam operations.

"He (McNamara) testified with far more certainty than the case justified. His testimony was highly misleading. He did give a very misleading impression of (his) conviction and the degree of evidence," Ellsberg said.

## His Argument

Ellsberg raised the Tonkin study during a meeting with a group of reporters to bolster his contention that restrictions on who could see or talk about what within the government are as severe as those on communicating with the public.

Ellsberg, now a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is facing criminal prosecution for leaking the Pentagon papers to newspapers.

He denied that he was fired from the project authorized by McNamara to compile documents setting forth U.S. involvement in Vietnam over the past two decades.

It is known, however, that the suggestion was made to Ellsberg by Pentagon officials that he might wish to return to Rand rather than finish the portion of the Vietnam study he was assigned to do.

When asked today whether he was fired from the study group, he gave an emphatic "No."

"I wasn't bumped at all," he said. He said he had hepatitis at the time and "shouldn't have been doing what I was doing." He said he would work a couple of hours and then lie down for a couple of hours, and finally decided to leave the Pentagon.

## Source "Not Rand"

He said that after he went back to Rand he continued to give advice and help on the study. He said it "was not Rand" that gave him access to the papers he gave to the newspapers but "all the people" who were involved in the preparation.

The government apparently believes Ellsberg made his copies from study documents that were in possession of Rand Corp. at Santa Monica, Calif.

Ellsberg said that when he gave the documents to newspapers and to some congressmen he "took for granted I would go to prison." He said that since he has further studied the legal ramifications of his act, he is not as certain he will wind up in jail.

# 'Reds' Offer Aimed At Political Gains, CIA Advises Nixon

By TAD SZULC  
New York Times News Service

The Central Intelligence Agency has told President Nixon that the new Viet Cong peace proposal is aimed at embarrassing the United States "both at home and overseas" and encouraging the opponents of President Nguyen Van Thieu in South Vietnam, officials say.

Other negative comments on the plan were contained in a Nixon and other top administration officials last Friday, a day after Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the chief Viet Cong delegate, offered her proposals at the Paris talks.

The agency's evaluation, according to senior administration officials, was one of several top-level studies of the Communist plan on which Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers based their decision to instruct the U.S. delegation in Paris to seek further clarifications yesterday from the Communist side in "restricted sessions," or private talks.

## Other Studies Concur

The evaluation and parallel studies prepared in recent days by the State and Defense departments and the National Security Council staff have expressed numerous serious reservations about the Viet Cong plan.

But all the studies also found new elements in the plan.

The CIA paper, for example, noted that "it softens" the Communist position on the American prisoners of war and presents "two new nuances" on the South Vietnamese political settlement. For this reason, senior officials said, the administration chose to seek to engage in what officials here termed "meaningful negotiations."

Senior officials emphasized that they did not consider the fact that the Communists had not responded immediately to the proposal for "restricted" sessions, made in Paris by Ambassador David K. E. Bruce, the chief U.S. negotiator, as an outright rejection.

They said that "something resembling a negotiating process may be in the making."

## Nixon in California

At San Clemente, Calif., where Nixon and Rogers yesterday conferred for the third time this week on strategy in the Paris

talks, a White House spokesman, Gerald L. Warren, said that Bruce was attempting to start "meaningful negotiations."

The State Department press officer, Charles W. Bray III, said: "We regret that the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong did not respond affirmatively to this suggestion, but continue to hope that they will do so."

Highly placed officials indicated their belief that the President would refrain from publicly expressing his views on the developments in the talks until the situation became "much clearer" through public or private exchanges in Paris.

They said that only after such clarifications would Nixon address the nation on the state of the negotiations. They recalled that last year he waited nearly three weeks after the Communists presented their peace plan on Sept. 17 before making his counterproposal on Oct. 7.

"At this stage, we are not prepared to reject or to accept anything as a package," a senior official said. "We are looking and we are probing because this is the business of diplomacy."

The negotiating situation will be reviewed again when Henry Kissinger joins Nixon and Rogers in San Clemente early next week. The next scheduled session of the Paris talks is Thursday.

Kissinger, the President's special assistant for national security affairs, visited Saigon last weekend and is to confer with Bruce in Paris this weekend.

## Helms Joins in Talks

Richard Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency — which was reported to have drafted the first analysis of the Viet Cong plan — participated in the discussions on the U.S. response to the Communist proposals after he flew to San Clemente

to with the President and Rogers Tuesday.

Officials familiar with various administration evaluations of the Viet Cong plan said the CIA analysis was "perhaps the most pessimistic — but also the most realistic — of the lot."

Its over-all conclusion, contained in the first paragraph of the document, said:

"The Viet Cong's new seven-point proposal softens the Communists' position on the prisoner-of-war release but retains and amplifies a very tough line on United States disengagement from the war. In addition, it repackages Hanoi's demands for a political settlement in South Vietnam in a superficially more attractive form."

The analysis recognized, however, that "there are two new nuances in the Communist position on a political settlement in South Vietnam."

## What Reds Offered

The principal features of the Viet Cong plan were the Communist readiness to start releasing U.S. prisoners of war as American troops begin withdrawing from Vietnam after a date "in 1971" is set by Washington, and the dropping of the Communists' long-standing insistence on a coalition regime in Saigon as the condition for a political settlement.

But after analyzing the plan, the CIA offered this assessment of the Communist motives in presenting their July 1 proposals:

"The Communists doubtless hope that their initiative on the prisoners — coupled as it is with a restatement of their basic position on United States withdrawals — will make things awkward for the United States government both at home and overseas."

"They may also believe that their political proposals will appeal to many in the United States who are looking for a face-saving way out of the war. They probably are also hoping that the new proposal will fuel worries in Saigon about Washington's longer-term support."

"The new formula for a political settlement in South Vietnam, by its fuzziness and air of reasonableness, is designed both to encourage individuals in South Vietnam whose support of the war is wavering and to give some ammunition to those who are already working to build an anti-Thieu, anti-war constituency."

## Elections in October

This aspect of the analysis was known to be in line with the belief in other administration quarters that the Communist peace plan was launched, at least in part, to influence the outcome of the October elections in South Vietnam — when President Thieu will seek re-election.

In this context, the analysis noted that "among other things the Communists seem intent on creating the impression that the election of Big Minh could prove an initial step toward peace."

"Big Minh," is Gen. Duong Van Minh, a potential but undeclared presidential candidate upon whom Hanoi and the Viet Cong had looked with favor in the past.

## 1st 'New Nuance' Eyed

The analysis said that the Viet Cong plan's first "new nuance" was that instead of demanding a coalition regime, it "simply demands that the United States 'cease backing the bellicose group' headed by Thieu."

The other nuance, it said, is that the Communists no longer ask a "three-segment" regime, including Communists, but a broad "government of national concord" to be negotiated by the Viet Cong with a "post-Thieu administration."

Previously North Vietnamese and Viet Cong leaders had insisted that not only Thieu, but Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky and Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, as well, would be unacceptable in a post-war government.

"For years Communist delegates at the Paris peace talks have been calling for removal of the 'Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique,' one diplomatic informant told the Associated Press. "They practically pronounced 'Thieu-Ky-Khiem' as one word. Now they've begun speaking only of Thieu."

Le Due Tho, senior North Vietnamese representative in Paris, gave an interview to the New York Times and hammered away at Thieu — and Thieu only.

# CIA Warns Nixon On Red Peace Plan

By TAD SZULC

New York Times News Service

The Central Intelligence Agency has told President Nixon that the new Viet Cong peace proposal is aimed at embarrassing the United States "both at home and overseas" and encouraging the opponents of President Nguyen Van Thieu in South Vietnam, officials say.

Other negative comments on the plan were contained in a detailed analysis submitted to Nixon and other top administration officials last Friday, a day after Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the chief Viet Cong delegate, offered her proposals at the Paris talks.

The agency's evaluation, according to senior administration officials, was one of several top-level studies of the Communist plan on which Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers based their decision to instruct the U.S. delegation in Paris to seek further clarifications yesterday from the Communist side in "restricted sessions," or private talks.

The evaluation and parallel studies prepared in recent days by the State and Defense departments and the National Security Council staff have expressed numerous serious reservations about the Viet Cong plan.

But all the studies also found new elements in the plan.

The CIA paper, for example, noted that "it softens" the Communist position on the American prisoners of war and presents "two new nuances" on the South Vietnamese political settlement. For this reason, senior officials said, the administration chose to seek to engage in what officials here termed "meaningful negotiations."

Senior officials emphasized that they did not consider the fact that the Communists had not responded immediately to the proposal for "restricted" sessions, made in Paris by Ambassador David K. E. Bruce, the chief U.S. negotiator, as an outright rejection.

They said that "something resembling a negotiating process may be in the making."

At San Clemente, Calif., where Nixon and Rogers yesterday conferred for the third time this

week on strategy in the Paris talks, a White House spokesman, Gerald L. Warren, said that Bruce was attempting to start "meaningful negotiations."

The State Department press officer, Charles W. Bray III, said: "We regret that the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong did not respond affirmatively to this suggestion, but continue to hope that they will do so."

Highly placed officials indicated their belief that the President would refrain from publicly expressing his views on the developments in the talks until the situation becomes "much clearer" through public or private exchanges in Paris.

They said that only after such clarifications would Nixon address the nation on the state of the negotiations. They recalled that last year he waited nearly three weeks after the Communists presented their peace plan on Sept. 17 before making his counterproposal on Oct. 7.

"At this stage, we are not prepared to reject or to accept anything as a package," a senior official said. "We are looking and we are probing because this is the business of diplomacy."

The negotiating situation will be reviewed again when Henry Kissinger joins Nixon and Rogers in San Clemente early next week. The next scheduled session of the Paris talks is Thursday.

Kissinger, the President's special assistant for national security affairs, visited Saigon last weekend and is to confer with Bruce in Paris this weekend.

## Helms Joins in Talks

Richard Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency — which was reported to have drafted the first analysis of the Viet Cong plan — participated in the discussions on the U.S. response to the Communist proposals after he flew to San Clemente with the President and Rogers Tuesday.

Officials familiar with various administration evaluations of the Viet Cong plan said the CIA analysis was "perhaps the most pessimistic — but also the most realistic — of the lot."

Its over-all conclusion, contained in the first paragraph of the document, said:

"The Viet Cong's new seven-point proposal softens the Communists' position on the prisoner-of-war release but retains and amplifies a very tough line on United States disengagement from the war. In addition, it repackages Hanoi's demands for a political settlement in South Vietnam in a superficially more attractive form."

The analysis recognized, however, that "there are two new nuances in the Communist position on a political settlement in South Vietnam."

## What Reds Offered

The principal features of the Viet Cong plan were the Communist readiness to start releasing U.S. prisoners of war as American troops begin withdrawing from Vietnam after a date "in 1971" is set by Washington, and the dropping of the Communists' long-standing insistence on a coalition regime in Saigon as the condition for a political settlement.

But after analyzing the plan, the CIA offered this assessment of the Communist motives in presenting their July 1 proposals:

"The Communists doubtless hope that their initiative on the prisoners — coupled as it is with a restatement of their basic position on United States withdrawals — will make things awkward for the United States government both at home and overseas."

"They may also believe that their political proposals will appeal to many in the United States who are looking for a face-saving way out of the war. They probably are also hoping that the new proposal will fuel worries in Saigon about Washington's longer-term support."

"The new formula for a political settlement in South Vietnam, by its fuzziness and air of reasonableness, is designed both to encourage individuals in South Vietnam whose support of the war is wavering and to give some ammunition to those who are already working to build an anti-Thieu, anti-war constituency."

## Elections in October

This aspect of the analysis was known to be in line with the belief in other administration quarters that the Communist peace plan was launched, at least in part, to influence the outcome of the October elections in South Vietnam—when President Thieu will seek re-election.

In this context, the analysis noted that "among other things the Communists seem intent on creating the impression that the election of Big Minh could prove an initial step toward peace."

"Big Minh," is Gen. Duong Van Minh, a potential but undeclared presidential candidate upon whom Hanoi and the Viet Cong had looked with favor in the past.

## 1st 'New Nuance' Eyed

The analysis said that the Viet Cong plan's first "new nuance" was that instead of demanding a coalition regime, it "simply demands that the United States 'cease backing the bellicose group' headed by Thieu."

The other nuance, it said, is that the Communists no longer ask a "three-segment" regime, including Communists, but a broad "government of national concord" to be negotiated by the Viet Cong with a "post-Thieu administration."

Previously North Vietnamese and Viet Cong leaders had insisted that not only Thieu, but Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky and Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, as well, would be unacceptable in a post-war government.

"For years Communist delegates at the Paris peace talks have been calling for removal of the 'Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique,' one diplomatic informant told the Associated Press. 'They practically pronounced 'Thieu-Ky-Khiem' as one word. Now they've begun speaking only of Thieu.'"

Le Duc Tho, senior North Vietnamese representative in Paris, gave an interview to the New York Times and hammered away at Thieu—and Thieu only.